

COMMUNICATIONS, B.A. (ALTOONA)

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Altoona

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts in Communications, a minimum of 123 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	12
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	42

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if world language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
<i>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
COMM 100N	The Mass Media and Society	3
COMM 150N	The Art of the Cinema	3
COMM 260W	News Writing and Reporting	3
COMM 490		3
Additional Courses		
<i>Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better</i>		
Select 12 credits from the following, including 6 credits at the 400-level:		12
COMM 1	Newspaper Practicum ¹	
COMM 2	Newspaper Editorial Staff ¹	
COMM 215	Basic Photography for Communications	
COMM 241	Graphic Design for Communications	
COMM 242	Basic Video/Filmmaking	
COMM 251	The Nature of Media	
COMM 269	Photojournalism	
COMM 270	Introduction to Multimedia Production	
COMM 282	Television Field Production	
COMM 283	Television Studio Production	
COMM 296	Independent Studies	

COMM 337	Intermediate Documentary Production	
COMM 339	Intermediate Alternative Production	
COMM 346	Writing for the Screen I	
COMM 360	Radio Reporting	
COMM 374	Audio Production	
COMM 415	Advanced Photography for Communications	
COMM 421W	Advertising Creative Strategies	
COMM 436	Advanced Audio Production	
COMM 439	Alternative Filmmaking Techniques (max 6 credits)	
COMM 448	Advanced Group Production I	
COMM 460W	Reporting Methods	
COMM 461	Magazine Writing	
COMM 462	Feature Writing	
COMM 467	News Editing and Evaluation	
COMM 468	Graphic Applications in Print Communications	
COMM 469	Photography for the Mass Media	
COMM 471	Public Relations Media and Methods	
COMM 472	Public Relations Event Planning	
COMM 481	Visual Storytelling for Journalists	
COMM 495	Internship	
COMM 496	Independent Studies	
Select 12 credits from the following, including 6 credits at the 400-level:		12
COMM 110	Media and Democracy	
COMM 180	Survey of Electronic Media and Telecommunications	
COMM 190	Gaming and Interactive Media	
COMM 205	Gender, Diversity and the Media	
COMM 250	Film History and Theory	
COMM 251	The Nature of Media	
COMM 261	The Literature of Journalism	
COMM 292	Introduction to Media & Politics	
COMM 294	Research Project Courses	
COMM 296	Independent Studies	
COMM 320	Introduction to Advertising	
COMM 370	Public Relations	
COMM 401	Mass Media in History	
COMM 403	Law of Mass Communications	
COMM 408	Cultural Foundations of Communications	
COMM 409	News Media Ethics	
COMM 411	Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media	
COMM 412	Sports, Media and Society	
COMM 413W	Media, Politics, and Civic Life	
COMM 417	Ethics and Regulation in Advertising and Public Relations	
COMM 431	Topics in Television Culture and Communication	
COMM 451	Topics in American Film	
COMM 452	Topics in International Cinema	
COMM 454	Documentary in Film and Television	
COMM 494	Research Project Courses	
COMM 496	Independent Studies	

Select 6 credits from the following:

COMM 470A	Convergent Media News Service: Newspaper Production
COMM 470B	Convergent Media News Service: TV
COMM 470C	Convergent Media News Service: Radio and Online Publications

¹ A student may apply only 6 credits total of COMM 1 and COMM 2 towards the requirements of the Communications degree.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Quantification (GQ):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)

- **Arts (GA):** 3 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 3 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS):** 3 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 3 credits

Integrative Studies

- **Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain):** 6 credits

Exploration

- **GN**, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
- **GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses.** This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits

A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work

Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (<https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/>)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

World Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one world language in addition to English. This proficiency must be demonstrated by either examination or course work. See the Placement Policy for Penn State World Language Courses (<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/>).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, World Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; world language credits in this category must be in a second world language in addition to English or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language). Credits must be selected from the list of approved courses.

World Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the University Cultural Diversity (US/IL) requirement.